



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
6013 Lakeside Boulevard  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

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April 22, 2008

**Indiana Bulletin: IN 430-8-3**

**Subject: SOI – Soil Scientists Role in Correcting Errors in SSURGO Spatial Data Sets**

**Purpose:** To provide soil scientists guidance on how to handle errors in the SSURGO Spatial Data sets.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2008

**Background:** It's been noted that some of the SSURGO spatial data sets contain errors, such as line placement; delineations with different map unit symbols; delineations with missing symbols; and delineations of the same map unit sharing common boundaries. This document defines the procedure to follow in the event that an error is found in the soils spatial data.

When errors are noted by field office staffs, the District Conservationist in the survey area is to be notified. The District Conservationist is to record the exact location and nature of the error on either a hard or electronic copy of the soils layer using the most current or detailed aerial imagery. The name of the individual who found the error should also be noted.

The discrepancy should then be sent by mail or electronically to the appropriate area resource soil scientist. The area resource soil scientist will then forward this information to the state soil scientist. The state soil scientist will assign the area resource soil scientist or the MLRA soil survey office leader to field check the map unit delineation in question and correct the error. **A record of the correction will be kept on file in the field office.**

In addition, a record of the error and correction will be maintained at the state office by the state soil scientist. A **Problem Copy Geodatabase** will be the official repository for errors found and corrections made to Indiana's SSURGO spatial data. Problems stored in this Geodatabase will be reconciled with the official SSURGO data at the discretion of the State Soil Scientist based on severity of the errors, numbers of errors, and workload requirements. There will be no fixed schedule for this update of the SSURGO spatial data.

Alena Stephens, Cartographic Technician, is the designated representative of the state soil scientist responsible for maintaining the Problem Copy Geodatabase. The state soil scientist will forward the records of errors and corrections to the SURGO spatial data to Alena Stephens, Cartographic Technician.

If there are questions, please direct them to Travis Neely, State Soil Scientist, (317) 290-3200, ext. 380 or Rick Neilson, Soil Scientist, (317) 290-3200, ext. 375.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY  
State Conservationist

DIST: Soil Scientists